

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 10-13, 18-19, and 24 have been allowed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamori Kazuo (JP 2000-100955).

Claim 1 provides that signal pads are only arranged in an area outside of an area of the power supply pads.

In contrast, in Takamori, although corner cell 4, for example, serves as a power source, and I/O cells 2 surround an interior region 3, pads 5 are arranged all over the LSI, and there is no restriction that power supply pads be located exclusively in the area of corner cell 4 or that signal pads be located exclusively in the area of I/O cells 2. Power supply pads merely need to be electrically connected to corner cell 4 and signal pads merely need to be electrically connected to I/O cells 2, (see ¶¶ [0021]-[0022]).

With regard to the non-elected claims, claims 9, 14-17, 20-23, 25-26, and 30, are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 3, and therefore, should be allowable based upon the fact that claim 3 has been allowed.

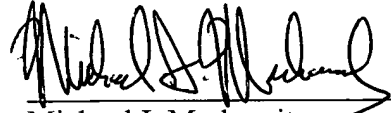
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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